

REMARKS

In the office action dated March 21, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2. Applicant has amended claim 3, and also canceled claims 1 and 2. The Examiner's comments and rejections are addressed below in the order they were presented in the Office Action.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,792,286 ("Meier"). Moreover, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JPO 09-205797 ("Kawabata"). Applicant, however, traverses these rejections in light of the cancellations of claims 1 and 2, which renders these rejections moot now. As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claim 3-5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would allow it if rewritten in independent form. As such, Applicant has amended claim 3 into an independent claim by further reciting the limitations of canceled claims 1 and 2, in which claims 4 and 5 continue to depend on amended claim 3. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

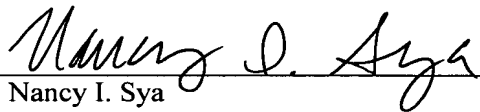
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application as a whole is in form for allowance. Should the Examiner have any continuing objections, Applicant respectfully asks the Examiner to contact the undersigned at 415-442-1000 in order to expedite allowance of the case. Authorization is granted to charge any outstanding fees due at this time for the continued prosecution of this matter to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (matter no. 060944-0178-US).

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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